

The Hanafi Scholars Prove That Taraweeh Is 8 Rak'ah

Extracts from Shaikh Abdul Jaleel Samroodee's Risalah on 'Taraweeh

Evidence No.1

Alla'mah Ainnee Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) writes the following in his book 'Umdatul-Qaree': "If you were to state that it is not clear in the narrations (by Imam Bukhari), regarding the number of raka'ah the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) prayed in these nights (the three (3) nights of Ramadhan). In Response I say there is a narration from Ibn Khuzaimah and Ibn Hibban from the Hadeeth of Jabir (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhu) who said "that the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) prayed eight raka'ah with us in the month of Ramadhan and finished with the Witr". (Umdatul-Qaree Sharah Saheeh Bukhari, vol. 3, page 597, Egyptian print).

Evidence No.2

Alla'mah Zailaee Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) has also asserted in Nasbur-Raayah Fee Takhreejer A-Haditheer Hidaayah: "Also Ibn Hibban in his Saheeh has narrated from Jabir Ibn Abdullah (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhu) that the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) prayed eight raka'ah with his companions (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhum) in the month of Ramadhan and finished with Witr". (Nasbur-Rayaah, volume 2, page 152).

Evidence No.3

Imam Muhammad (Rahimahu 'Llah) one of the renowned students of Imam Abu'Haneefah (Rahimahu 'Llah) has mentioned in his book 'Muwatta' the famous narration of Aisha (Radiya 'Llahu 'anha), "Whether it was Ramadhan or any other month Allah's Messenger (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) did not pray more than eleven raka'ah". (Muwatta, Imam Muhammad, page 138).
Imam Muhammad (Rahimahu 'Llah) asserts his acceptance of Aisha's narrations by saying, "and we take all of this". Therefore, he has shown that his Madhab is eleven raka'ah and this can only be the Madhab of Imam Abu Haneefah (Rahimahu 'Llah) as well.

Evidence No.4

Imam Ibn Humam (Rahimahu 'Llah) writes in Fathul-Qadeer: "In conclusion the Qiyaam of Ramadhan (taraaweeh) consists of eight raka'ah with Jamaa'ah (congregation) as it was done by our beloved Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam)." (Fathul -Qadeer, Sharah Hidaayah, vol. 1, page 334).
Written in the footnote of Hidaayah (a reliable book of the Hanafi Fiqh, vol. 1, page 96), is "The 'Sunnah' is that which the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) did regularly.

Evidence No.5

Alla'mah Mulla Ali Qaree Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) says, "Verily the Taraaweeh prayer consists of eleven Raka'ah as it was the practise of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam)." (Mirqaat Hashiyyah Mishkaat, vol. 2, page 115).

After quoting this Alla'mah Mulla Ali Qaree Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) also says, "therefore it has authentically been proven from the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) that he (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) prayed eight raka'ah taraaweesh with his companions (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhum) and finished with Witr". (Mirqaat Hashiyyah Mishkaat, vol. 2, page 174).

Evidence No.6

Alla'mah AbdulHai Lucknowi Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) states in his book "Taleequl -Mumjeed" that the narration which Ibn Hibban has narrated in his Saheeh of Jabir Ibn Abdullah (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhu) that the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) prayed eight raka'ah (taraaweesh), with his companions in the month of Ramadhan and finished with Witr (is very Saheeh). (I'aleequl -Mumjeed, Sharah Muwatta, Imam Muhammad).

Evidence No.7

Imam Muhammad Bin Nasr Marwazi (Rahimahu 'Llah) in his book 'Qiyamul -Lail' has narrated from Jabir Bin Abdullah (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhu) that Ubay Bin Kaa'ab (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhu) went to Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) and said, "I have done something last night (in Ramadhan)", he the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said, "What is it; Ubay?", He (Ubay Bin Kaa'ab) replied, "some of the women in my house told me, "we cannot read The Qur'aan, so can you lead us in prayer?" So I led them with eight raka'ah followed by one witr. The Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) did not say anything, which made it an approved Sunnah (taqrereyyah). (Qiyamul- Lail, Marwazi, Page 90). (Al - Haythami said about this report in Majma -Zawaaed, vol. 2, page 74, that it is Isnad (chain) is Hasan (good).

Evidence No.8

Imam Tahawi (Rahimahu 'Llah) has said in M'aaneul -Athaar (which is considered as one of the most reliable books in the Hanafi Fiqh) Sa'eeb Bin Yazeed has said that Umar Ibn Al-Khattab (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhu) commanded Ubay Ibn Kaa'ab and Tamim Ad-Dari to lead the people in (qiyaam) Taraaweesh with eleven Raka'ah finishing with Witr". (Ma'aaneul- Athaar, vol. 1, page 173, and also narrated in Muwatta Imam Malik, page 40).

From the above narration we come to understand that the practise of the companions of the Prophet (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhum) was to pray eight raka'ah taraaweesh, and also during the era of the second Caliph Umar (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhu) said or did the Sunnah of the Taraaweesh prayer which was eight raka'ah finishing with witr, as it has been reported by Imam Tahawi (Rahimahu 'Llah) in 'Ma'aaneul Athaar'.

Evidence No.9

Imam Ahmad Tahtawi (Rahimahu 'Llah) writes, 'verily the Prophet did not pray twenty (20), but he prayed eight (8) raka'ah. (fahtawi Hashiyyab, Dure -Mukhtar, vol. 1, page 295).

In the same manner Alla'mah Abu -Saood Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) has written in 'Sharah Kanz' a similar statement, page 265.

Evidence No.10

Alla'mah Abul- Hasan Shurunbalaalee Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) the author of the famous Hanafi fiqh book regarding worship "Noorul- Eedhaa" writes: "It has authentically been established that the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) prayed eleven Raka'ah with congregation finishing with the Witr." (Maraaqiul-Falah Sharah Noorul- Eedhaa page 274).

Evidence No.II

Moulvi Muhammad Ahsan Nanotwi (Rahimahu 'Llah) writes: "Because the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) did not pray twenty but he prayed eight raka'ah." (footnote) of Kanzud- Daqaaeq page 36)

Evidence No.12

Moulvi Ahmed AI Sharanpuri (Rahimahu 'Llah) writes the following: Verily the qiyaam (taraaweesh) of Ramadhan is Sunnah with eleven raka'ah in congregation finishing with the Witr. Just as it was the practice of the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) in the month of Ramadhan with the congregation." (footnote) of Bukhari volume 1 page 154).

And the following has also been written in "Ainul -Hidaayah": (page562) author "The only authentic narration which has been proven with Saheeh Hadeeth regarding the Taraaweesh prayer with the Witr is the narration of eight Raka'ah.

Evidence No.13

Aila'mah Abdul-Hai Lucknowi Hanafi (rahimahumullah) writes the following regarding the number of raka'ah for Taraaweesh: "Ibn Hibban and others have narrated that the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) in these (three) nights prayed eight raka'ah with his companions (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhum) in congregation." (Umdatur-Riaayah volume 1page 207).

And Aila'mah AbdulHai Lucknowi Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) in "Taleequl-Mumjeed" page 138 declares the above narration to be VERY SAHEEH.

Evidence No.14

One of the famous late Hanafi Scholars by the name of Molvi Muhammad Zakariyah Kanddhlevi (Rahimahu 'Llah) the author of 'Tablighi Nisaab', says: "According to the principles of Muhadetheen (Scholars of Hadeeth) it has not been authentically proven in the correct manner with a 'Marfu' narration ('Elevated', a narration from the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam), reported by a companion, successor, and others that the prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) prayed twenty. [Awjazul-Masaalik Sharah Muwatta Imam Malik, vol. 1, page 397.]

Evidence No.15

Noa'maan has reported, "As it has been commonly known (amongst the people) that twenty raka'ah taraaweesh is the Sunnah, this is not authentically proven from the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam). What is correct is that at the time of The Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) according to his command the practised Sunnah was in accordance with the (famous) narration of Aishah (Radiya 'Llahu 'anha) as it can be found in Saheeh Bukhari, which is, 'Whether it was Ramadhan or any other month Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) did not pray more than eleven raka'ah'. Aisha (Radiya 'Llahu 'anha) knows better than other people about the affairs of the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) at night. [In Fatah Sirul -Manaan Fee Ta'eed Madhabeen -Noa'maan]

Evidence No.16

Aila'mah Ibn Humaam Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) writes the following, 'The narration which Ibn Abee Shaibah and Tibraanee, Bayhaqi have narrated from Ibn Abbas (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhu) that the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) used to pray twenty Raka'ah finishing with Witr in the month of Ramadhan is 'Da'eef', (weak). As the narrator is Abu Shaibah Ibrahim Bin Uthmaan who is the grandfather of Imam Abu Bakr Bin Abee Shaibah and he is 'Da'eef' (a weak narrator) apart from this the (above) narration also contradicts the authentic narration. [Fathul- Qadeer Ma'aa Hidayyah, vol. 1, page 205.]

Evidence No.17

Alla'mah Zailaee Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) writes the following: "Ibn Abee Shaibah has narrated from the Hadeeth of Ibrahim Bin Uthmaan Abu Shaibah that the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) used to pray twenty raka'ah finishing with Witr. This Hadeeth is Ma'lool meaning DA 'EEF (weak) because it contains a narrator by the name of Abu Bakr Ibn Abee Shaibah, this narrator is DA 'EEF (a weak narrator) this is because there is a consensus amongst all the Muhaditheen (scholars of Hadeeth) that the (above) narrator (Abu Shaibah Ibrahim Bin Uthmaan) is Da'eef (a weak narrator)". (Nasbur Rayyah, volume, no. 2, page 153.

Evidence No.18

Alla'mah Zaileee Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) also says, "Ibn Adda in 'Kainil' has declared the (above) narration (the narration which contains Abu Shaibah Ibrahim Bin Uthmaan) 'Leen' (meaning Da'eef 'weak'). Apart from this the (above) narration contradicts the authentic narration reported by Aishah (Radiya 'Llahu 'anha) Which is: Abu Salmah Bin Abdur-Rahman asked Aishah (Radiya 'Llahu 'anha) about the Messenger's prayer (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) in Ramadhan she said: "Whether it was Ramadhan or any other month, Allah's messenger did not pray more than eleven raka'at." (Nasbur RaYah volume 2 Pal,te 153)

Evidence No.19

Aila'mah Anwar Shah Kashmiri Hanafi (Rahimahu 'Llah) writes the following about twenty raka'ah: "What is authentically proven from the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) is the number of eight raka'ah, and the report that states that the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) prayed twenty has been narrated with a weak chain which makes it "Da'eef (weak) and there is a "IJMAA" (consensus) upon its weakness." (Al-Urfus -Shizaa page 209)

Evidence No.20

From the book "Zuhratul Riyaadil Abraar" (The flower from the garden of the righteous ones): Chapter of Taraaweeh: Issue: Eight Rakaah Taraaweeh: Ailaamah Suhrunbulaalee has stated in his book "Maraqeeyui Falaah, Sharah Nurul Idha" (the explanation of Nurul Idha), to pray eight rakaah in congregation is sunnuatul Kifaayah (a sunnah to performed by a group of people), as it has been proven that the Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) prayed eleven rakaah in congregation concluding with the witr.